1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totalling $1531 billion in 2009); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

12th APRIL 2011

One consequence of the global economic crisis is that certain governments are beginning to cut military spending. But they won’t allocate the savings to social needs unless we pressure them to do so. During the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, people all over the world will join together in actions to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities.

We would like you/your organization to join us by (co-)sponsoring an event in your city (a whole range of actions is possible: from street theatre/demonstrations and erecting banners to seminars, signature collection and much more). Please write to us if you are interested in participating. >> See http://www.demilitarize.org/

NEW IPB PUBLICATION: Brochure ‘What does development cost?’ + POSTER - for Global Day of Action on Military Spending

January 26- IPB today published its new brochure ‘What does development cost?’ (+poster) which is a contribution to the planning for the first-ever Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS).

>>See: http://ipb.org/i/pdf-files/GDAMS-BigPoster.pdf

You will also find here the Invitation to participate which we ask readers to pass on to any others who might be interested.


As you can see from the map and listing at: http://demilitarize.org/action-events/, the idea is spreading far and wide and we are excited to see that many different events are being planned in a large number of cities. The coming GDAMS newsletters will give details of these. (See full version of cover letter, with discussion of MDG cost estimates).


NOTE: Hard copies of all above documents are available on request.

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**NEWS LINKED TO Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)**

**GDAMS Newsletter, Vol. 3**

Welcome to our third newsletter. As we get closer to April 12, more and more organizations and people are signing on. The Food Not Bombs network, School of the Americas Watch, International Network of Engineers & Scientists, and the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space are all on board. Changemaker in Bangladesh, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in Switzerland, and Peace Movement Aotearoa in New Zealand will all participate. Welcome!

This newsletter will focus on what’s going on in Latin America. We’ll also tell you about our organizers packet and our new one-pager on the military-industrial-academic complex, update you on the debate in the United States, and give you another idea for how to turn your April 12 event into a photo opportunity that the media will want to jump at.

>>See: http://demilitarize.org/newsletter/newsletter-vol-3/

**Arms Down! Religions for Peace campaign launches new video**

On 4 October 2010, young leaders from the world’s great religious traditions convened in New York to deliver a petition signed by more than 20 million people from 140 countries to H.E. Mr. Sergio Duarte, United Nations Secretary-General’s High Representative for Disarmament. The petition called on all governments to - among other things - officially pledge to cut their military budgets by 10% and re-allocate those funds to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The final overview video of the Arms Down! Campaign —presenting all the work accomplished from the beginning of the Campaign until the closing of its 1st phase—is now available.

>>See: http://www.armsdown.net/.

On 12 April, the Campaign will participate in the first-ever GDAMS.

**Fellowship of Reconciliation co-sponsor GDAMS**

The White House proposes increasing the Pentagon’s already bloated budget, while slashing heating assistance for low-income families. FOR is co-sponsoring the Global Day of Action on Military Spending on April 12 - a day for education and action in our communities about the impacts of military spending and the need to use our resources for life, not war.

Create space for a just and peaceful economy. Start by sending a message to your legislators.

>>See: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2507/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5859

Write your own Subject line. Don't just click + send - say a few words! http://forusa.org/

**Tax Day: April 15**

U.S. military expenditures total some $1.4 trillion, or fully 48% of federal tax revenue. Even
adjusted for inflation, this represents the largest military budget in the history of the United States – bigger than any point during World War II! WHAT CAN YOU DO? Demand that your money be invested elsewhere! On April 12th, 2011, join us for a **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**. Here in the U.S., we’ll be advocating for using our tax dollars for people, not war. We’ll be organizing demonstrations, street theater, seminars, and whatever else we can come up with to educate the public and put pressure on policy makers. Join the Institute for Policy Studies, the International Peace Bureau, and dozens of our partners in our global movement.

**Budget debate: No Taxation without Demilitarization!** The United States is facing a huge budget deficit. Many in Congress are calling for deeper cuts in social services. States and cities are being forced to cut back. Ordinary Americans are being asked to tighten their belts. “But one sector is only getting fatter. Congress is currently debating a continuing resolution for the 2011 budget that would add $8 billion to Pentagon funding. Meanwhile, the Obama administration is requesting a 3 percent increase in Pentagon spending for 2012: $553 billion in base-line spending. Military spending accounts for 58 percent of discretionary spending. See more at: [http://demilitarize.org/tax-day-materials/](http://demilitarize.org/tax-day-materials/)

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**A MILITARY SPENDING**

**It’s not a Deficit Crisis, it’s a Revenue Crisis: Move the Money!**  
*By Judith Le Blanc, National Field Organizer, Peace Action (IPB member organization)*  
February 10 - President Reagan’s former Budget Director David Stockman said, “...We are now at a historical inflection point at which the time has arrived for a classic post-war demobilization of the entire military establishment.” To take full advantage of this political moment, Peace Action is helping to organize an array of community and peace groups to form the New Priorities Network. It’s going to take long-term movement building to shift Federal funding priorities from weapons to schools, and waging wars to rebuilding infrastructure. It is not a deficit crisis. It is a revenue crisis. So let’s organize to move the money! For more information on the New Priorities Network and Resolutions Campaign go to [www.newprioritiesnetwork.org](http://www.newprioritiesnetwork.org)  

**Egypt’s Military-Industrial Complex**  
*By Ken Stier*  
February 9 - All eyes turned to Egypt's military as protests shook the regime and President Hosni Mubarak's grip on power...While the Cabinet and ruling party were revamped, the military portfolio remained the same. A vast military-run commercial enterprise that seeps into every corner of Egyptian society. Despite the military's predominant role, the Egyptian public knows remarkably little about how the military actually operates. The secrecy begins with the military budget, which Jane's estimates to be about $5 billion. However, one independent researcher has calculated that actual military expenditures could be four or five times larger.  
>>See: [http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,2046963,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,2046963,00.html)

**Military Priorities are Distorting Aid Budgets, says Oxfam**  
*By Richard Norton-Taylor, The Guardian*  
February 10 - Western military interests driven by the "war on terror" are endangering aid
workers, distorting budgets, and depriving the most needy of help, according to Oxfam. Billions of pounds of international aid that could have transformed the lives of people in the poorest countries in the world has been spent on unsustainable, expensive and sometimes dangerous aid projects, as donor governments including the US, Canada, and France have used aid to support short-term foreign policy and security objectives..


**US Plans to Spend Billions in Modernizing the Nuclear Weapons Machinery**

At a time when the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is asking Congress to authorize billions of dollars to modernize what it calls its “aging” nuclear infrastructure for maintaining and producing nuclear weapons, a new report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) concludes that “NNSA does not have accurate, reliable, or complete data on the condition and replacement value of its almost 3,000 weapons activities facilities.” The new budget request to be released today is expected to request billions of dollars to modernize the nuclear weapons complex.


**UK Science Group Welcomes Defense Cuts**

February 14 - Scientists for Global Responsibility has welcomed the cuts to the defense budget announced in the government’s Strategic Defense and Security Review and said there is an opportunity to “fundamentally shift” engineering and science in favour of the environmental sector. [http://profena.com/news/green-group-welcomes-defence-cuts](http://profena.com/news/green-group-welcomes-defence-cuts)

**A Prayer for America**

*By Dennis Kucinich*

February 16 - "We read the US Constitution at the beginning of this new session of Congress, but what does it mean? What amnesia, anesthesia, psychic numbness has occurred while we grimly push round and round the wheel of war, paying trillions of dollars for the privilege of grinding ourselves and others into the blood-soaked dirt."

>>See: [http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/57-57/4993-a-prayer-for-america](http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/57-57/4993-a-prayer-for-america)

**New campaign : Facing Finance**

*Letter from Thomas Küchenmeister, Facing Finance Coordinator*
The majority of the 17 German member organizations of ActionGroup Landmine.de (Aktionsbündnis Landmine.de) decided to shut down the activities of the ActionGroup at the end of 2010. Only 3 of the former members will continue campaigning. I really hope to continue this cooperation with all of you and with regard to FACING FINANCE I officially will work for from 1st April 2011. This campaign will apply for CMC membership and I personally will also continue to support the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor with regard to research in Germany and on arms fairs. Facing Finance’s aim is to expose companies worldwide which profit from business practices which severely and continuously infringe against internationally accepted standards with regard to human and labour rights, environmental protection, internationally prohibited weapons, and corruption.

>>See: [www.facing-finance.org](http://www.facing-finance.org)

INES Launches Worldwide Campaign Against Military Research: Commit Universities to Peace

*From Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR)*

In an international appeal (see below) signed by Nobel Laureates, Right Livelihood Laureates and prominent scientists, INES asks for the abandonment of all research and teaching for military purposes and urges university authorities and responsible academic bodies everywhere to adopt binding commitments in their university statutes similar to Civil Clauses in some countries.


The signatures collected until June 2011 will be distributed to the world meeting of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP).

>>See: [http://www.iaup.org](http://www.iaup.org)

B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

UK Refuses to Suspend Egypt Arms Sales

*By Richard Norton-Taylor*

February 8 - The British government refuses to say whether it would follow the example of Germany and France and suspend exports of arms and riot control equipment to Egypt. Instead, UK officials say decisions will be taken on a "case by case" basis in line with its own and EU guidelines. Officials "will assess whether the current circumstances in Egypt and the granting of a license will contravene the criteria", the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills said. The criteria say that arms will not be sold to countries or regions where they would exacerbate tensions and contribute to the abuse of human rights. However, Britain sold £16.4m worth of arms to Egypt in 2009.

>>See: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/08/uk-arms-exports-egypt/print](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/08/uk-arms-exports-egypt/print)


**Torchbearers for Victims in a Violent Land**

*By Nilanjana S. Roy*

February 8 - An article in the New York Times mentions the work of Bina Nepram, winner of IPB’s MacBride Peace Prize in 2010. “Violence against women has been on the rise due to the ongoing conflict,” said Ms. Nepram, who has lived and worked in Manipur and Delhi for
the past decade. In 2007, she founded the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network to assist victims of the violence against women that she says is routinely committed by the state and insurgency groups, or that arises from the proliferation of firearms that has accompanied the turmoil. >>See: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/world/asia/09ihl-letter09.html

International Campaign to Ban Landmines/Cluster Munitions Coalition appoints new Executive Director

By Steve Goose, Chair, on behalf of the ICBL-CMC Governance Board

It is with great delight that the Governance Board of the ICBL-CMC announces that Sylvie Brigot has accepted the position of Executive Director of the ICBL-CMC. Sylvie is by far the best person to lead us forward in the next phase of our work. This is the first hiring for the new ICBL-CMC staff structure, and we plan to have the CMC Director, ICBL Director, and Policy Director positions filled in the near future. Please join us in congratulating Sylvie on this exciting appointment. We are lucky to have her!

Stop Buying Uranium – Australians Devastated by Mining on Aboriginal Land

From Peace Boat, Life Onboard

February 3 - Della Rae Morrison, chair of the Western Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, has been active in the fight against nuclear power and uranium mining since the threat of uranium mining occurred in her country. Uranium mining was banned in the state of Western Australia until 2008. Now that the ban has been lifted, a mine is planned in Yeelirrie, a place that is sacred to Indigenous Australians. Ms Morrison is well aware of the effects that uranium mining has had in other parts of Australia.


Final CMC Statement on Allegations of CM Use on Thailand/Cambodia Border

From Cluster Munitions Coalition

February 10 - The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is concerned by allegations of recent use of cluster munitions in a border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand. According to media reports, government and military officials from both countries have accused the other side of using the weapons, which are banned under international law because of the unacceptable civilian harm they cause. The reports have not been independently verified, and the CMC does not know if cluster munitions have been used, but it condemns the use of cluster munitions anywhere, by any actor, for any reason. Cambodia and Thailand are not among the 108 countries that have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Both participated in the “Oslo Process” to negotiate the Convention and attended its First Meeting of States Parties in neighboring Lao PDR in November 2010.

>>See: http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=2854

Swiss Vote to Keep Army Guns at Home

February 13 - Switzerland, which has the highest rate of suicide by firearms in Europe, voted Sunday to hold fast to its long-standing tradition of letting citizens keep army-issue weapons
at home. A referendum, launched by a coalition of non-governmental groups, religious authorities and centre-left parties, pushed to have the weapons stored in armouries instead. The initiative also aimed to abolish the practice of allowing those on military service to keep their government-issue assault rifles even after they leave the army. But the coalition failed to secure the votes of both a majority of the population and cantons. Final results showed that 20 out of 26 cantons were against while 56.3 percent of the population rejected the initiative.

>>See:  [http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Swiss_vote_to_keep_army_guns_at_home_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Swiss_vote_to_keep_army_guns_at_home_999.html)

>>See:  [www.stoparmstrade.org](http://www.stoparmstrade.org)

[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/Specials/Gun_debate/News/Results/Gun_vote_was_about_national_identity.html?cid=29488450](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/Specials/Gun_debate/News/Results/Gun_vote_was_about_national_identity.html?cid=29488450)


From Stop Explosive Investments

February 11 - On 12 May 2011 IKV Pax Christi and Netwerk Vlaanderen are releasing their most recent findings on investments in cluster bomb producers in an updated report. On the same day that the report findings are launched there will be a global day of action to stop explosive investments, which we hope all campaigners active on disinvestment will be involved in. We hope that campaigners will be able to plan activities which may include: press conferences, outreach to financial institutions, public actions, launches of new disinvestment campaigns and more!

>>See:  [http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/take-action/campaign-toolkit](http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/take-action/campaign-toolkit)


2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

On the Start of the New Signature Campaign in Support of “Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons”

From Japan Council against A & H Bombs (GENSUIKYO)

February 15 – Last year the resolution calling for the start of negotiations on a nuclear weapon convention enjoyed support from 133 countries, including China, India and Pakistan, which possess nuclear arsenals, and even North Korea. We have planned a new signature campaign in support of the “Appeal for a total ban on nuclear weapons” This appeal has been sent to leaders and influential people in different fields both in Japan and around the world to seek their endorsement and comments. Internationally, we have received supports and messages from, first of all, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and his High Representative Sergio Duarte, Nobel laureates Jody Williams and Mairead Maguire, and international networks and national and grassroots peace groups, such as the International Peace Bureau, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and its International Campaign. The number of leading people overseas who have endorsed the “Appeal” has reached 170..

IPB Signs Letter to Duma and Congress on Operational Readiness of Nuke Weapons
The letter "What next after New Start ratification? Increasing decision-making time for strategic nuclear weapons" has been prepared by members of the Abolition2000 working group assisted by Colonel Valery Yarnich and some former Russian missile forces folk. You are urged to sign your organization onto it if you possibly can.

>>See: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NucNews/message/32502
For further information: John Hallam, jjohnhallam@gmail.com

UK: IPB Member Group CND Cymru Says 'Cut Trident not Jobs' March & Rally on Feb. 19
From Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
February 18 - CND Cymru activists will be joining with others at tomorrow’s RCT Unison ‘Wales against the Cuts’ Protest and Rally in Pontypridd. They will be calling on the British Government to stop cuts in public services and instead to stop wasting taxpayers’ money on Trident – an immoral and costly nuclear weapons system.

>>See: http://www.cndcymru.org/

Walking Together in Australia for a Nuclear Free Future
By Marcus Atkinson, Nuclear Free Future Campaign Coordinator
Footprints for Peace launched a five year campaign to raise awareness of the nuclear industry and we would love you to be involved at whatever capacity you feel able to. The first stage of this campaign is a walk from Wiluna, Western Australia to Perth from August 22nd, 2011 to October 30th, 2011. This walk will be aimed at connecting with and supporting Aboriginal people who are opposing the new proposed uranium mines in Western Australia. If you are unable to join us, then please let all your friends know about it. You never know who may take up this opportunity and join us. Registration form at:
http://footprints.footprintsforpeace.net/nffcampaign/upload/files/Australian_registration_form_distributed.pdf

>>See: www.nuclearfreefuture.com

Global Hibakusha Forum Statement for a Nuclear-Free World
By Felicity Hill
February 7 - Over the past two weeks Peace Boat hosted about the most amazing experience of my anti-nuclear life, bringing 9 Hibakusha recently appointed as "Special Communicators for a World Without Nuclear Weapons" by the government of Japan, together with 5 Tahitians working on the impact of French nuclear testing, plus 5 Japanese high school student Peace Ambassadors as well as 5 Australians, four Aboriginal women from uranium mining affected areas and myself. The statement we negotiated represents a breakthrough of sorts in that the group was able to assert unequivocally that radiation itself is the problem - whatever its source - and called for investment in truly clean energy, the kind of inalienable right everyone can get behind in a fragile and finite world facing climate change..

>>See: http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/1413460/618098860/name/GHF%20Statement_EN_FNL.pdf
http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/1413460/1507055474/name/GHF_Participants___list_EN_FNL.pdf

>>See: http://kansblog.kantei.go.jp/2011/02/20110209.html
3. MISCELLANEOUS

No to War – No to NATO, Annual Meeting, Dublin, April 15th - 17th 2011
After conducting colorful and broad actions around the NATO summit in Lisbon, the international coordinating committee of the No to War - No to NATO network is preparing the annual meeting of the network in Dublin in the mid of April. We would like to invite all of you to come to Dublin for the annual meeting. We will discuss the future actions of the network and will elect a new international coordinating committee. Thus your participation in the event is of highest importance for the future work of No to War - No to NATO.


Gender Impact of UN Resolution 1325 on Peace Accords
By Christine Bell & Dr Catherine O'Rourke from the Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
In their recent research on the impact of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the text of peace agreements, the authors make some significant findings about the impact of 1325 on peace agreement drafting. “In our research project, we were interested in whether the texts of peace agreements post-1325 showed evidence of the resolution’s impact. Did peace agreements signed after the resolution contain more references to women and gender equality than those signed before the resolution? If so, what was the nature of these provisions? What difference did involvement of the United Nations in the negotiation of the agreement make regarding, firstly, the number, and secondly, the nature, of peace agreement references to women and gender?…”

>>See: http://www.transitionaljustice.ulster.ac.uk/current%20projects/documents/WomenandPeaceAgreementDataset.htm

>>See: http://journals.cambridge.org/article_S002058931000062X

A Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan
February 18 - On September 14, 2001, I placed the lone vote against the "Authorization of Use of Force" - an authorization that I knew would provide a blank check to wage war anywhere, at any time, and for any length. Nearly a decade later, the United States remains embroiled in the longest war in our nation’s history in Afghanistan, longer than Vietnam and World War II. The fact is, we cannot continue to funnel billions of dollars a week toward a counterproductive military-first strategy in Afghanistan while sacrificing vital domestic priorities such as quality education, affordable health care, and much-needed investments to create jobs and jump start the economy.


4. RESOURCES

Religions for Peace Resource Guides : Clusters and Small Arms
From UNODA Education - Publications
The United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs has included in their website three resource guides published by Religions for Peace (IPB member organization). “Cluster


**Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter (#80 February 2011 - Part II)**

*From GCPE*

The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter provides a monthly bulletin of GCPE news, events, action alerts and reports of peace education activities and developments from around the world. You can sign-up to receive the newsletter and review back issues


**New Animated Short on DU: When the Dust Settles, at YouTube**

*By International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons Coordinator*

ICBUW and IKV Pax Christi have been working on a joint project to create an animated short film on the hazards of depleted uranium and the international campaign against its use and are happy that the English language version has now been completed. We have sought to render down a complex issue into six and a half minutes and at present the animation is available in English and Dutch, we hope that additional languages will be available in future.

>>See: [http://www.youtube.com/user/ICBUW](http://www.youtube.com/user/ICBUW)
>>See: [http://www.youtube.com/user/IKVPaxChristi](http://www.youtube.com/user/IKVPaxChristi)

**Surplus Arms in South America: A Survey – Now Available in Portuguese and Spanish**

*Small Arms Survey Working Paper 7, by Aaron Karp*

Originally published in English in August 2009, has now been released in Portuguese and Spanish versions, making the valuable information more accessible to researchers, activists, the law-enforcement community, and policy-makers in the region. It examines issues surrounding surplus military small arms and light weapons in the region, as well as law enforcement and civilian firearms inventories. In doing so, the study highlights the need for systematic programmes to secure and dispose of surplus military small arms to prevent their diversion into civilian and criminal inventories..


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